GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:24
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
VERIFICATION OF TELECOM SUBSCRIBERS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to telecom service providing companies to verify the proof and identity of a subscriber before release of new connection;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has any mechanism to check that the service providers are strictly following the instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of telecom companies found violating such Government instructions during 2007-08 and the current year;and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government against such companies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 FOR 20TH OCTOBER, 2008 REGARDING "VERIFICATION OF TELECOM SUBSCRIBERS".

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions for verification of subscribers were issued to all Mobile Telephone Service Providers to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber including obtaining photograph and copies of prescribed documents for identity and address proof of the subscriber. Instructions were also issued from time to time for 100% verification of subscribers and to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Department of Telecommunications (DOT) is carrying out audit to ascertain the status of compliance of instructions relating to subscriber verification.

(e) Based on the reports of monthly audit, it has been observed that the correct subscriber verification percentage on the average is about 80% wherein photograph and copies of documents for identity and address proofs have been obtained by service providers. All the service providers are lacking in meeting the requisite compliance of instructions relating to 100% subscriber verification.

(f) It has been decided to impose financial penalty of Rs. 1000/= per unverified/improperly verified subscriber on the defaulting service providers.